

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a longitudinal catheter shaft for positioning an ablation electrode within a patient's body;
and
an ablation electrode disposed on the shaft and having an outer ablating surface,
wherein the electrode is convertible from a first configuration in which the electrode outer ablating surface has a first axial size and a first radial size to a second configuration in which the electrode outer ablating surface has a second axial size and maintains the first radial size;
wherein
the ablation electrode comprises a first electrode portion and a second electrode portion
~~which are in electrical contact with each other, each of the first electrode portion and the second electrode portion being a portion of the same ablation electrode and being configured to be connected to a same terminal of a power source,~~ the first electrode portion having an outer ablating surface, and the second electrode portion having a length and being moveable in the axial direction of the catheter, wherein in the first configuration more of the second electrode portion length is contained within the first electrode portion than in the second configuration.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein in the first configuration, the second electrode portion length is fully contained within the first electrode portion.
4. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the ablation electrode comprises a third electrode portion that is at least partially contained within the second electrode portion in the first configuration.

5. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein a pull wire is connected to the second electrode portion.

6. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, wherein the ablation electrode is a ring electrode.

7. (Original) The catheter according to claim 6, wherein the first electrode portion and the second electrode portion are cylindrical.

8.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a longitudinal catheter shaft for positioning an ablation electrode within a patient's body;
and
an ablation electrode having an electrode length and disposed on the shaft, the electrode having a continuous outer ablating surface area with an outer ablating surface area length, and the electrode having portions which are movable relative to one ~~another and which stay in electrical contact with one another;~~
wherein the continuous outer ablating surface area length is adjustable;
the ablation electrode length is adjustable;
each of the electrode portions being a portion of the same ablation electrode and being configured to be connected to a same terminal of a power source, and
the electrode is substantially comprised of metal.

12. (Original) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the electrode is substantially comprised of at least one of: platinum; silver; gold; chromium; aluminum and tungsten.

13. (Original) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the electrode is substantially comprised of a combination of at least two of: platinum; silver; gold; chromium; aluminum and tungsten.

14.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
a longitudinal catheter shaft configured to position an ablation electrode within a patient's body, wherein a first ablation electrode portion and a second ablation electrode portion are mounted on the catheter shaft, the first ablation electrode portion having an outer ablating surface configured to emit electrical energy, and the second ablation electrode portion having an outer ablating surface configured to emit electrical energy, each of the first electrode portion and the second electrode portion being a portion of the same ablation electrode and being configured to be connected to a same terminal of a power source; wherein

the second ablation electrode portion is moveable from a first position substantially inside the first ablation electrode portion to a second position substantially outside the first ablation electrode portion; and

the first ablation electrode portion and the second ablation electrode portion are electrically connected.

17. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim 16, further comprising a third ablation electrode portion configured for mounting on the catheter shaft, the third ablation electrode portion having an outer ablating surface configured to emit electrical energy, the third ablation electrode portions being a portion of the same ablation electrode that includes the first and second electrode portions, wherein

the third ablation electrode portion is moveable from a first position substantially inside the second ablation electrode portion to a second position substantially outside the second ablation electrode portion.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The catheter according to claim 16, further comprising a pull wire configured to move the second electrode portion.

20.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) A catheter according to claim 1, wherein the first electrode portion is in electrical contact with an electrical lead, and the second electrode portion is in electrical contact with the same electrical lead.

34. (Canceled)